



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRUCK DRIVER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR \$2.3 MILLION CASH CARGO

(Beaumont, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 34-year-old Mission, Texas man has been sentenced to 60 months in federal prison for interstate travel in aid of racketeering enterprises in the Eastern District of Texas. **JUAN CASTANON** was sentenced today by United States District Judge Thad Heartfield.

According to information presented in court, on February 8, 2005, Castanon was driving an 18-wheeler semi-trailer southbound on U.S. 59 when he was pulled over just north of Nacogdoches for speeding. During a search of the vehicle, a DPS Highway Patrol trooper discovered bundles of cash in a concealed compartment inside the refrigerated trailer. The cash amounted to approximately \$2,298,255.00 and was reported by the Texas Department of Public Safety to be one of the biggest cash seizures from a traffic stop.

Castanon was indicted and then pleaded guilty to charges of interstate travel in aid of racketeering enterprises on September 2, 2005. The \$2.2 million is pending forfeiture proceedings by the federal government and will be distributed to law enforcement under the federal asset sharing program.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Assistant United States Attorney Reynaldo P. Morin prosecuted the case.

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